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ABSTRACT

This guide provides a partial list of the resources available to help educators, parents, and community leaders address questions about student safety. It presents resources that parents and families can turn to for help, including the Colorado University Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Talking Teen to Teen, the Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice, and Partnerships Against Violence Network. The document includes the names of publications about community support for teens, such as "The Youth Charter: How Communities Can Work Together to Raise Standards for All Our Children," "Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them," "The Prevention of Youth Violence: A Framework for Community Action," "What Works in Reducing Adolescent Violence: An Empirical Review of the Field," and "Warning Signs of Teen Violence." The publication lists information and program ideas that schools can use to effect student safety. These include the Education Commission of the States; The National Crime Prevention Council; California Department of Education; Safe School and Violence Prevention Office; "Keeping Schools and Communities Safe"; "National School Safety and Security Services"; "Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools"; "National Association of School Psychologists"; "Keep Schools Safe"; "Prevent Violence"; "Safe and Drug Free Schools Program"; and the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. (Contains 21 Web addresses of suggested resource agencies.) (RJM)

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Clarifying Complex Education Issues

Resource Guide
Keeping Schools and Students Safe

In the wake of April's tragic and violent attack at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, school communities throughout California are asking serious questions. What if such a tragedy happened here? What steps can be taken to protect our schools and our young people? And perhaps most importantly, how can such incidents best be prevented?

This guide is a partial list of the resources available to help educators, parents, and community leaders address these difficult questions.

Talking Teen to Teen. More than 300,000 teens have called the Teen Line to talk out worries with a peer. Call collect 310/855-4673.

Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice. This school violence site features good advice and a chat room. **www.air.org/cecp**

Partnerships Against Violence Network (PAVNET). Includes an online search and retrieval system, a printed directory of approximately 600 programs, 200 information and technical assistance sources, and about 125 funding sources. **http://pavnet.org**

WHAT STATE LAWMAKERS HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING

Governor Gray Davis and the California Legislature were, in May 1999, considering funding and legislation directed at improving school safety. Proposals ranged from funding additional counselors, to assigning local police directly to schools, to providing funds for improved school safety equipment (such as metal detectors).

Up-to-date information on California lawmakers' proposals and pending legislation is available at www.ca.gov.

By state law, every public school in California is currently required to:

- *have a comprehensive school safety plan;*
- *follow state "zero-tolerance" laws which require expulsion for students who bring weapons to school or threaten the safety of students or staff in other ways; and*
- *notify local police when students commit certain offenses, including having weapons at school.*

Information about laws in other states is available through the following organizations:

The National Governors Association. Contact Dane Linn, 202/624-3629 or Thomas MacLellan 202/624-5427. www.nga.org

Education Commission of the States. 303/299-3600. www.ecs.org

National Conference of State Legislatures. 303/830-2200. www.ncsl.org

Publications about community support for teens include:

The Youth Charter: How Communities Can Work Together to Raise Standards For All Our Children, by William Damon. Offers practical solutions to violence and other adolescent problems.*

Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them, by James Garbarino. Offers practical ideas for parents, schools, and the juvenile justice system.*

The Prevention of Youth Violence: A Framework for Community Action. (1993) U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Washington, DC. 404/639-3311.

What Works in Reducing Adolescent Violence: An Empirical Review of the Field. (1994) The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. P. Tolan and N. Guerra. **www.colorado.edu/cspv/infohouse.publications.html**

Warning Signs of Teen Violence, a guide designed to help young people recognize when classmates or friends might be potential dangers to themselves or others. The American Psychological Association and MTV. **http://helping.apa.org/warningsigns/Index.html**

*Available through on-line booksellers.

Where parents and families can turn for help

Information and advice is available through these resource agencies and web sites:

Colorado University Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. Lists violence-prevention programs being used around the nation. **www.colorado.edu/cspv**

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A GREAT PLACE TO START

National School Safety Center, 805/373-9977. www.nssc1.org

This comprehensive clearinghouse offers a wealth of valuable information for school leaders, parents, and community members.

WestEd, www.wested.org/wested/news/school_violence.html
This education policy organization includes some California-specific information on its web site.

What schools can do

Get information and program ideas by contacting these resource agencies and web sites:

Education Commission of the States. Information on school safety policies, practices, and resources, including ECS publications on youth violence and links to other organizations and documents.
www.ecs.org

The National Crime Prevention Council. Shares strategies in *Safe Schools*. 202/466-6272.
www.ncpc.org

California Department of Education, Safe School and Violence Prevention Office.
California Department of Education
560 J Street, Suite 260, Sacramento, CA 95814
916/323-2183
www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/safety/safetyhome.html

Keeping Schools and Communities Safe.
Web site created by the U.S. Department of Education. Features publications, funding opportunities, and organizations that can help us keep our schools and communities safe.
www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/safeschools.html

National School Safety and Security Services.
Web site includes a wide range of resources on school security planning and crisis preparedness.
www.schoolsecurity.org

Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools. U.S. Department of Education.
www.air-dc.org/cecp/guide/guidetext.htm

National Association of School Psychologists.
This site includes publications entitled "Schoolyard Tragedies: Coping With the Aftermath" and "Crisis Response: Resources on Responding to a School Tragedy."
www.naspweb.org/services/advocacy/neat.htm

Keep Schools Safe. A joint effort of the National Association of Attorneys General and the National School Boards Association. This site provides up-to-date information on successful programs and ideas.
http://keepschoolssafe.org

Prevent Violence. Sponsored by Resources For Youth, provides resources for schools, parents, and youth in California.
www.preventviolence.org

Safe and Drug Free Schools Program.
Under the U.S. Department of Education.
www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS

National Criminal Justice Reference Service.
Information specialists offer referral services, technical assistance, grant writing expertise, and free and low-cost documents on violence prevention.
Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
Rockville, MD 20849-6000. 800/638-8736.
www.ncjrs.org

Read these valuable publications about school safety:

School Violence Prevention (March, 1995) by Dean Walker.
ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management.
http://eric.uoregon.edu/publications/digests/digest094.html

Safe Schools: A Handbook for Practitioners. A $125 guide from the National Association of Secondary Principals. 800/253-7746. **www.nassp.org**

Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence by the California School Boards Association, West Sacramento, CA 95691. 916/371-4691. **www.csba.org**

Creating caring relationships to foster academic excellence: Recommendations for reducing violence in California schools. (1995) Commission on Teacher Credentialing. J.D. Dear. Sacramento, CA. 916/445-7256.

Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders. (1995) Juvenile Justice Clearing House. J.C. Howell. 800/638-8736.

Helping in the Hallways. This book, written by Ohio University education professor Richard Hazler, discusses school measures that have successfully warded off violence.*

Getting Results, Part I: California Action Guide to Creating Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. Assistance for school districts and schools in developing programs within the parameters of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. California Department of Education, Publications Division. 800/995-4099.
www.cde.ca.gov/publications/Pub.html

Reducing School Violence Through Conflict Resolution. (1995) D.W. Johnson and R.T. Johnson.*

*Available through on-line booksellers.

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You may also be interested in the following related EdSource publications:

- *High Schools in the Hot Seat: An Overview of Current Challenges*
- *Peers, Parents, and Schools: Two Views on How They Affect Student Achievement*
- *A Handbook: Understanding California's School Improvement Issues* (for a comprehensive overview)

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